and Family Welfare, as it is the biggest bulk drug manufacturer in the country and supplies products to that Ministry;

(b) if so, whether requests made therefor have been considered sympathically; and

(c) the action taken for revival of IDPL and transfer to the Health and Family Welfare Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Representations have been received for transfer of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. No decision has been taken by Government to transfer the administrative control of IDPL to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The operations relating to bulk drugs manufacture in the plants of IDPL have stopped since October, 1996. The company has been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction in terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The future of the company, including revival, would be determined by the proceedings and the final decision of the BIFR.

Availability of Potash Fertilisers to Andhra Pradesh

4268. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been requested to advise M/s. IPL to make available the balance committed quantity of MOP (Potash fertiliser) to Andhra Pradesh during current Kharif season, alongwith SOP, to meet farmers' requirement on time; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) No specific request has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for arranging supply of Muriate of Potash (MOP)/Sulphate of Potash (SOP) from M/s. Indian Potash Limited (IPL) during Kharif 2000. Moreover, both MOP and SOP are decontrolled fertilisers and their imports are decanalised. Then, there are no State-wise allocations and supply as well as movement are undertaken by importers as per the market requirement.

The State Government has informed that against the estimated requirement of 1.25 lakh MTs of MOP for Kharif 2000, suppliers have committed supply of more than 1.54 lakh MTs. Further M/s. IPL have also committed to supply 6,000 MTS of SOP to Andhra Pradesh which should be adequate to meet the requirement of farmers of Andhra Pradesh.

Misuse of Retention Price Scheme by Fertilizer Units

4269. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some fertilizer industrial units are misusing 'Retention Price Scheme' by way of breach of law by installing larger plants than sanctioned, collecting consequently much higher profits and producing the real capacity of the plant collecting even higher subsidy; and

(b) what was originally proposed as a subsidy for the farmer, has become a source of huge profiteering by the Industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Government is seized of the matter relating to excess drawal of subsidy by under statement of capacities by some of the urea manufacturing units.

(b) The Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS) was introduced in 1977 with the twin objective of making available fertilizer to farmers at affordable prices and at the same time ensuring reasonable return on net worth to entrepreneurs. Subsidy on urea is primarily passed on to farmers in the form of an uniform and statutorily notified sale price which is far less than the cost of production.

Revival of FCI Unit at Ramagundam

4270. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to save the Fertilizer Corporation of India unit at Ramagundam facing closure; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to revive the unit early, in view of interests of backward areas and the employees ?